REPORT FOR 1905.

St. Austell,
January, 1906.

To the Chairman and Members of the St. Austell Urban District Council.

It is again my duty to present you my Annual Report on the Sanitary condition of your District, according to instructions laid down by the Local Government Board--the work accomplished, and also the work in contemplation, together with the Tables of Mortality and Sickness. These Returns are increasing year by year, a new form having been enclosed in which the mortality in children under one year is given, the months and weeks they lived, also the number of illegitimate children. There is also a form for the Factory Act, which contains a separate Report for the Home Office.

The past year the Rainfall was less than the previous year, and also below the average for the past five years. The seasons, although mild, were changeable, and not a favourable year for health. There was a good deal of sickness during the year, but there was no epidemic, and consequently the zymotic mortality was not excessive, which will be referred to as the separate diseases are commented on.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever—Only one case occurred during the year, and, owing to prompt notification and disinfection, the disease did not further spread.

Diptheria.—One case occurred at Albert Road, in a young child, which did not prove fatal, the house and surroundings were disinfected, and every sanitary precaution had been taken, the case being isolated as far as practical. This disease also did not further spread.

Typhoid Fever.—Four cases occurred, one having proved fatal. The origin of this disease is uncertain. The drains were tested and nothing wrong was detected. The dairy from which the milk was procured was also visited and inspected, and nothing unsanitary was found about the premises, and there does not appear to be any connection between the cases. Every sanitary precaution is being taken. This disease rarely occurs in the district. Further investigation will be made in order to discover the origin.

Phthisis.—Although notifiable, no cases were notified during the year. Five deaths occurred, three between 25 and 65 years, and two over 65 years of age. There was only one case in the district; the other four, in the Workhouse Hospital, proved fatal.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in the district at the commencement of the year; there being three fatal cases in very young children, two occuring in the district and one in the Workhouse. As the weather got milder this disease disappeared.

Measles were also prevalent at the commencement of the year, and were of a mild form, and did not spread to any extent. There was no fatality.

Influenza.—There was one fatality from Influenza in the Workhouse, but none in the district. This occurred in the early part of the year.

From the Notifiable Diseases there was only one fatality, excepting Phthisis, from which there were five deaths. From the Non-Notifiable Diseases there were three fatalities. This speaks well for the health of the district, and also its sanitary condition.

House to House Inspection has been made throughout the whole district during the year, and the houses on the whole were satisfactory; a few of them were old and not up to date; the surroundings in some cases were not as sanitary as they should be, owing, in a great measure, to the occupiers not keeping them in a proper sanitary condition

The Drainage has been improved at Vicarage Hill, where an old stone sewer has been replaced by stoneware pipes. At Market Street a similar sewer has been laid. The drainage of private houses has also had attention, and several improvements have been made. But still the question of drainage into the River is not satisfactory; this, I believe, is under the consideration of the Council, who are contemplating taking some action in the matter.

There is at present only one Urinal in the district, which is a boon to the neighbourhood. The Council have endeavoured to secure sites for others, but have not yet been successful, having no compulsory power to obtain land; but have no doubt, in the near future, if suitable places could be obtained, the Council will have the work accomplished.

The Water Supply has been sufficient during most of the year, excepting a few months in the summer, when the supply was cut off during the night; this is owing to the amount used in dry weather in the gardens. The supply has never been been less than 140 gallons a minute, which give at least 50 gallons per head per day.

Water Closets are now in use throughout the district, except in a few instances; the Hopper System is in use. There are no Privies or Cesspits in the district.

The House Refuse is removed daily by the scavangers employed by the Council some distance outside the district, where it is used for making land.

The Lodging Houses have been regularly inspected, and found satisfactory. There are only two in the district.

There is only one Slaughter House in the district, which has also been regularly visited; it has been kept satisfactorily.

The Bakeries, five in number, have been visited and found satisfactory; regularly limewashed; no sleeping apartments over them; and none are underground.

The Factory and Workshop Act has had our attention, the several Factories have been visited and inspected. They have been regularly limewashed. No case of over-crowding or over-work has come under our notice; and only one complaint has been made, where there was no privy or closet accommodation; this is having attention.

There have been several nuisances, which have received attention. Most of them have been abated by oral notices, such as filthy heaps, choked drains, and also Fowls' houses, which in wet weather become a nuisance, and which require a good deal of supervision.

Dairies and cowsheds have been visited and inspected, and they have been limewashed. No complaints have been made during the year. The Cowsheds have been improved, but the Milshops, although kept clean, ought not to be part of the dwelling house, as the said Milkshop, is used, I am afraid, as a receptacle for meat, vegetables, and other matter.

Herewith find the Birth and Death Rates since I have been your Officer:

	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1880	33·1	22
1881	26·6	18·1
1882	23·7	25·9
1883	26·2	24·2
1884	30·9	18·7
1885	27·07	27·3
1886	24·2	23·4
1887	25·1	25·9
1888	22·8	18·4
1889	23·4	15·6

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	Birth Rate	Death Rate
1890	19·2	24·6
1891	25·3	22·1
1892	23·8	20·1
1893	26 7	23.8
1894	28·6	20·1
1895	25·02	18·9
1896	23·8	16·6
1897	22·1	16·6
1898	20·9	23·2
1899	27·3	27·03
1900	19·5	22·1
1901	18·5	21·2
1902	26·3	17·06
1903	19·4	17·3
1904	18·8	20·6
1905	20	16·7

You will see that the Birth Rate is very low. and is considerably below the average for the past ten years. The Death Rate is low, and is also below the average for the past ten years, it being the third lowest since 1880. The deaths under one year of age are also low, aad under the average. Taking the district alone, excluding the Workhouse, the Death Rate for last year would have been 11·2; this, I consider, very good for an Urban District. Table 3 shows the number of cases notified which have previously been referred to. Table 4 gives the deaths from all causes and their ages. The mortality from notifiable and non-notifiable diseases has already been dealt with. From other diseases the mortality is about the same as the previous year.

Table V. is a new addition, and gives the mortality in children under one year, the weeks and months they lived, and also the causes of death. There had been eight deaths. The births were 67; 55 were legitimate children, the rest illegitimate. Ten of the illegitimates occurred in the Workhouse

There is also appended the Table for Factories and Workshops, and also the County Council's Annual Return.

In concluding this Report I would say that, although no work of magnitude has been under the consideration of the Council during the past year, still a good deal of useful sanitary reforms have had its attention. I hope during the coming year, with the consent and co-operation of the Council, to see some further improvements carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON, M.O.H.

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for 1905.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of St. Austell.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report, and submit the following tabulated statement of the work carried out during the year :

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDED, DECEMBER 31ST, 1905.

Accumulation of offensive matters removed ..	10
House Drains choked and remedied	12
Foul Closets and Privies cleaned	11
House Drains, new in lieu of old	6
House Drains tested	16
Water Closets, new provided	25
Sanitary Inspection, by request	4
Do. do. of School Premises	4
Do. do. of Railway Premises ..	4
Houses fumigated	2
Houses limewashed and cleansed	3
Pigs removed	2
Cesspits removed	
Overcrowding Cases abated	
Notices served to remedy Sanitary Defects .	5
Smoke Nuisances	
Offensive Trades	
Legal Proceedings	
Reports to Council	11

During the year I have thoroughly inspected the District. Five Notices were served to abate Nuisances, and the requirements in four cases were complied with ; the defaulting parties are the St. Austell Market Commissioners. The number of Drains tested by Asphyxiator was 16, I found most of them defective. Reports were sent to each owner, pointing out the work required to remedy the defects, and in every case the work was carried out.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There is only one Slaughter House in the District. Whenever inspected has been found satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.

These have been periodically inspected and found entirely satitfactory, and every effort is made by the occupiers to satisfy the Statutory requirements.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

These have all been inspected as to their state of cleanliness, sanitary arrangements, and air space ; on the whole were found satisfactory.

ICE CREAM TRADE.

There is only one manufacturer of Ice Cream in the District, everything appeared to be done to ensure the purity of Ice Cream

DAIRIES, MILKSHOPS, AND COWSHEDS.

The Medical Officer and I have periodically inspected the Dairies, Milkshops, and Cowsheds. The condition of the Cowsheds has improved, but still not up to the standard one would like to see them. In most cases the Dairies and Milkshops were clean. Some of the rooms used as Dairies are not at all suitable, being only intended as living rooms.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.

A periodical House to House Inspection has been made by the Medical Officer and myself. In some cases the drains and sanitary arrangements were not satisfactory, in these cases the houses have undergone a proper re-drainage, and putting in of improved sanitary fittings, the whole being submitted to the smoke test during the progress of the work and at completion.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year the District has been almost free from Infectious Diseases.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. SAMBLE.